



WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: Wildcat and Big Kitten

COUNTY: Vilas

YEAR: 2016

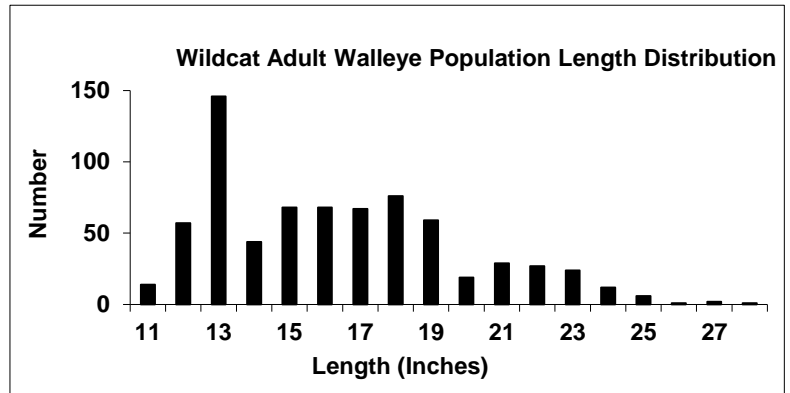
A comprehensive fishery survey was conducted of Wildcat and Big Kitten lakes, Vilas County, from April 19 through May 18, 2016 to determine the status of the fishery. Wildcat and Big Kitten lakes are highly fertile drainage lakes with predominantly sand and gravel bottom substrates. The lakes are connected by a navigable channel and have a combined surface area of 356 acres and 6.8 miles of shoreline.

Walleye

A total of 723 walleyes were captured in Wildcat and Big Kitten lakes. Approximately 40% of the adult* walleyes captured were greater than 15 inches, and 15% were greater than 20 inches with the longest fish captured being a 28 inch female.

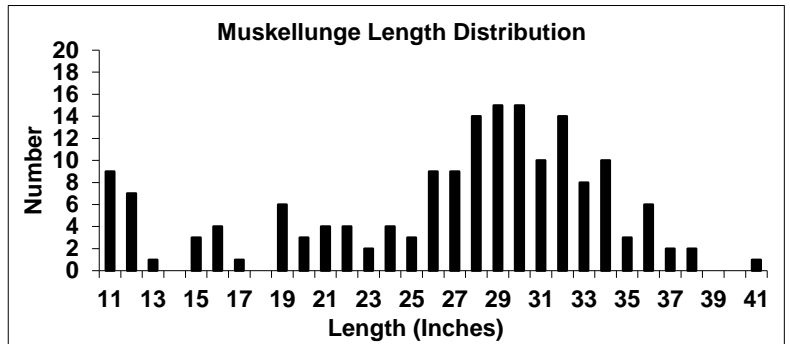
A mark and recapture survey of Wildcat Lake estimated an adult* population of 719 walleyes (2.4/acre). This estimate does not reflect the entire walleye population present in Wildcat Lake as smaller juvenile walleyes were not included in it.

* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye (regardless of length) and those of unknown sex ≥ 15 inches in length.



Muskellunge

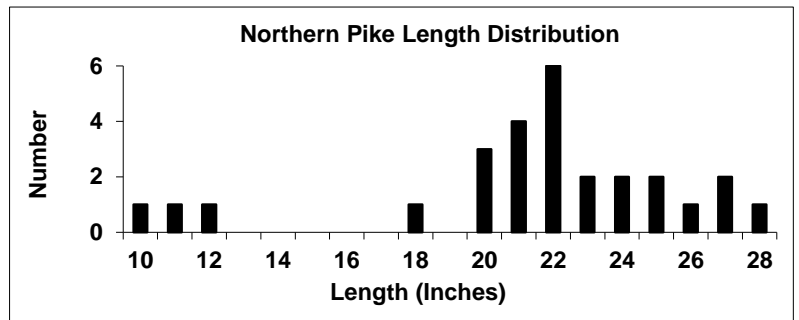
During the survey 118 muskellunge were captured in Wildcat and Big Kitten lakes. Only 2 (1.2%) of the muskellunge were 40 inches or larger. The longest muskellunge captured was a 41.4 inch female.



Northern Pike

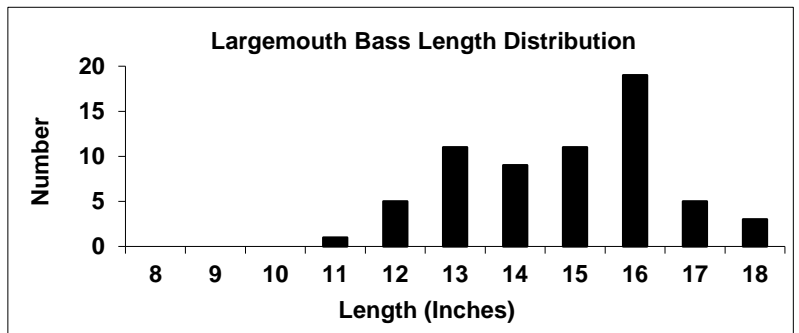
Northern pike are rare in Wildcat and Big Kitten lakes. A total of 27 were captured during this survey.

The average length of northern pike surveyed was good, with 14.8% being greater than 26 inches. The longest northern pike captured was 28.5 inches.



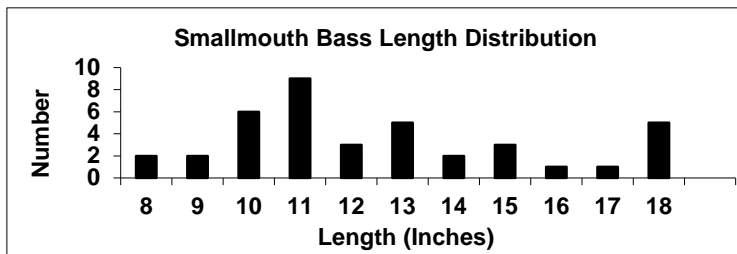
Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass are present in Wildcat and Big Kitten lakes in low numbers. Survey crews captured 64 adult largemouth bass (≥ 8 inches) during sampling. Approximately 73% of these largemouth bass were 14 inches or greater in length. The longest largemouth bass captured was 18.7 inches.



Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass are present in Wildcat and Big Kitten lakes in low numbers. Survey crews captured 39 adult smallmouth bass (≥ 8 inches) during sampling. Thirty percent of the smallmouth bass were 14 inches or greater in length. The longest smallmouth bass captured was 18.7 inches.

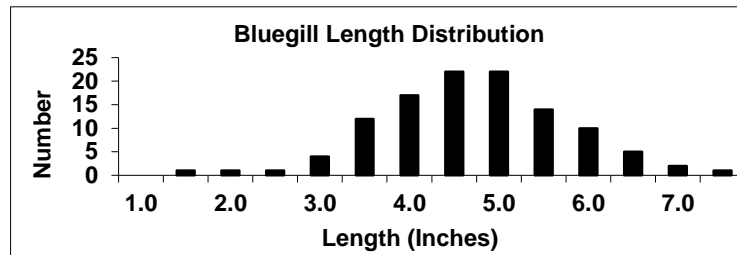


PANFISH

Panfish information presented here was collected from 3 half mile electrofishing stations on 5/18/2016. Overall, Wildcat and Big Kitten lakes have an abundant panfish population though it lacks numbers of quality-sized fish.

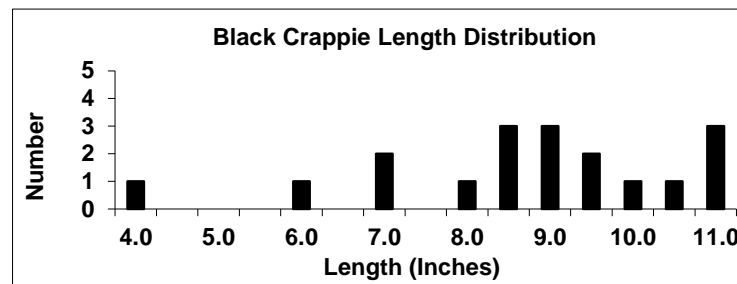
Bluegill

Bluegill are the most abundant panfish species present in Wildcat and Big Kitten lakes. Few bluegill over 6 inches were captured in this survey. No fish from a measured sub-sample of 112 fish was greater than 8 inches in length. The longest bluegill captured during the survey measured 7.7 inches.



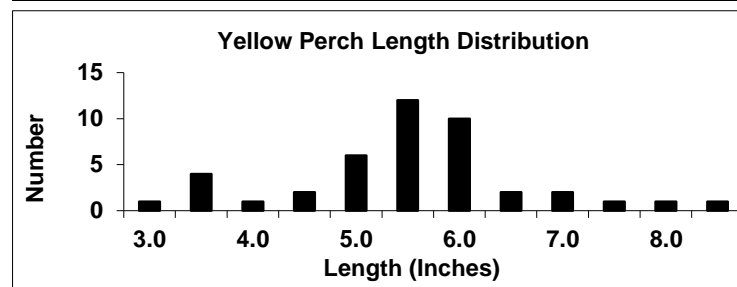
Black Crappie

Black crappies are the least abundant panfish in Wildcat and Big Kitten lakes. Of a sub-sample of 18 measured black crappies, 5% were at or above 10 inches long. The longest black crappie captured during the survey was 11.4 inches.



Yellow Perch

Yellow perch are moderately abundant in Wildcat and Big Kitten lakes. Of a measured sub-sample of 43 fish, only 2% were 8 inches long or longer. The longest yellow perch captured during the survey was 8.6 inches.



Other Fish Species

Other fish species captured during this survey include: grass pickerel, pumpkinseed, rock bass, white sucker, greater redhorse, golden shiner, mottled sculpin, creek chub, mimic shiner, and bluntnose minnow.

General Fishing Regulations for Wildcat/Big Kitten lakes, Vilas County, 2017

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 6 - March 4	3	15" min. length, 20-24" no harvest slot 1 fish over 24" allowed
Smallmouth Bass	May 6 - June 16 June 17 - March 4	0 5 in total w/ LMB	Catch and Release 14 inches
Largemouth Bass	May 6 - March 4	5 in total w/ SMB	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 27 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 6 - March 4	5	No minimum length

The regulatory information provided was current as of June 2017. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license, or download a copy from the WDNR web site at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations/>

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Wildcat and Big Kitten Lakes, Vilas County, contact:

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